

WI-47
Dr. Samuel Ker house
Quantico, Maryland
Description continued

The interior woodwork dates largely to the extensive remodeling of the house during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A late Federal stair with a turned newel post and rectangular balusters is fixed in the side hall, and Greek Revival mantels are found in the principal east rooms. A variety of six-panel doors are framed by thumb-molded backband surrounds.

The primary evidence for the earlier date of the west end is found in the double wall thickness in the center of the house, covered over beaded tie-beams in the kitchen that were described by the owner, and bedroom doors on the second floor that were cut through the former exterior wall for access into the mid-nineteenth century addition. Since there was not enough headroom for a full size door opening the outside corners of the doorways were cut to conform with the slope of the ceiling. Found on the third floor are reused eighteenth century raised-panel doors.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-47

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-47

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE

and/or common Twin Chimney house

2. Location

street & number Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Quantico ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William Robert and Reda McComas Passano

street & number P. O. Box 13 telephone no.:

city, town Quantico state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1139

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 651

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1972 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-47

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dr. Samuel Ker house, commonly called the "Twin Chimney House," is a two-story frame dwelling that stands on the west side of Main Street in the village of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, two-part house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating from two periods, the western single-story section is estimated to date to the late eighteenth century, probably around 1790-1800. Around 1850, a two-story, two-bay double-pile addition was erected against the east gable end of the late eighteenth century house. The eighteenth century section rests on a low brick foundation, whereas a foundation with a fully excavated cellar exists under the 1850 addition. A layer of vinyl siding covers the exterior, which was placed over wood shingles, which was placed over beaded weatherboards. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay elevation with the western two bays comprising the initial house. The centrally located entrance, which opens into the older section, is marked by a mid-to-late nineteenth century four-panel door that is topped by a four-light transom. A nine-over-six sash window pierces the wall to the left of the entrance. To the right of the entrance are two bays which define the 1850 addition. Nine-over-six sash windows light the first floor and six-over-six sash windows illuminate the second floor. Boxed cornices trim the base of the gable roofs. The roof pitch on the eighteenth century section is much steeper than the medium pitched roof on the addition. Both roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The east gable end of the addition is dominated by a pair of common bond brick chimneys with corbelled shoulders at the second floor level. Fixed between the chimneys is a gable roof portico that shelters a side entrance. Outside the brick chimneys nine-over-six sash windows light the first floor. The second floor is lighted by four evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and a single six-over-six sash window lights the attic. The flush gable end is finished with a molded bargeboard.

The north side of the house is finished in much the same way as the south and east sides. A shed addition, which extends from the west side of the earlier section, covers an large brick chimney stack that rises against the west gable end.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-47

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Prominently sited on a small knoll at the south end of the village of Quantico, this two-story, two-part house was built in two distinct stages. The older part of the house, the single-story west wing, dates to the late eighteenth century, while the taller two-story section with its pair of exterior brick chimneys was erected around 1850. With its late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century date, the west wing is one of the oldest structures to remain standing in Quantico. Aside from later layers of siding, the exterior has not been significantly changed since the nineteenth century. Although the interior has been partially remodeled during the last twenty years, many of the important nineteenth century features have been preserved.

For much of the nineteenth century this property was the residence of Dr. Samuel and Louisa Ker. The couple is listed in the 1850 U. S. census for Somerset County with four children; Elizabeth H., aged 14; Samuel H. D., aged 10; Daniel D., aged 8; and Louellen, 1 year old. Another women, 34-year old Ellen White, may have been a relative domestic help. The Ker's residency on this property presumably began in 1849 when Louisa purchased the house and lot in Quantico for \$1770. She retained the title to the property until 1902, when she sold the family house to Leah Amelia Messick, another long-time owner.

Due to its early date and relatively well preserved condition, this house qualifies for listing in Category A, a rating for structures that must be maintained due to their historic significance and/or its many good architectural details representative of a period of architectural development, and contributing uniquely and superlatively to the character and collective value of structures within the district.

Survey No. WI-47

PS-2746

WI-47
DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title

1139/651 Christopher W. Schlegel

to

4/8/1988 William Robert Passano
Reda McCombs Passano
Designated as Parcel No. 1 on a plat
entitled "Property Survey for Leah Phillips
made by Harold W. Hampshire 1/31/1975
Plat Book AJS 3/27

AJS 944/112 Kenneth J. Johnson
Sandra K. Johnson

to

6/25/1980 Christopher W. Schlegel
\$65,000

AJS 851/568 Leah Messick Phillips

to

2/20/1976 Kenneth J. Johnson
Sandra J. Johnson

IDT 161/421 G. Marion Messick
Bernice C. Messick

to

4/12/1929 Leah Messick (the said Leah Messick Phillips
by marriage to James Andrew Phillips)

WI-47
DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTT 34/217

Louisa A. Ker

to

12/1/1902

Leah Amelia Messick

\$800.00

Somerset Co.
Land Record
WP 4/99-101

Dr. Joseph Weatherly
Rhoda Anne Weatherly of Dorchester County

to

5/12/1849

Louisa A. Ker

\$1770.00

BH/379

Dr. Peter W. Langsdale
and Betsey his wife

to

1/25/1843

Joseph Weatherly

\$2,000 all those houses and lots in town
of Quantico

GH 7/614

Doctor John Austin

to

10/17/1834

Peter W. Langsdale

\$2,200.00 two certain houses and lots
1 acre situated in Quantico, the first
being where the said Peter
Langsdale at present resides

1/8 acre also the other lot in front of
the aforesaid house and lot which
the said John Austin bought of
George Twilley (mentions the mill
pond)

first lot being part of a tract
known as "Chelsey"

WI-47
DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

the other being part of the mill tract
name not allocated, both in the village
of Quantico Mills

GH 4/332

Noah and Charles Rider

to

6/2/1828

Dr. John Austin

\$300.00 all that lot or part of a tract
of land called Chelsey...on the
north side of Quantico Branch
2 3/4 or Creek in the town or village
acres of Quantico Mills

GH 3/162

Cyrus Nelson

to

3/3/1826

John Austin

\$600.00 part of Chelsey, north side
of Quantico Branch or mill pond
1 acre

1850 U. S. Census for Somerset County

Samuel J. S. Ker, 40, physician	
Louisa A. Ker	32
Eliz. H.	14
Samuel H. D.	10
Daniel D.	8
Louellen	1
Ellen White	34

1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas

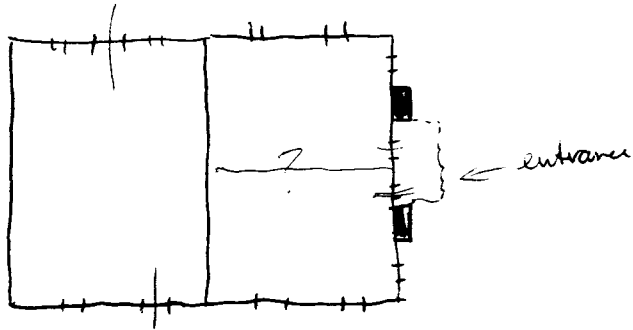
"Mrs. Kerr"

Twin Chimney House, Quantico

Like the Crawford-Collins House, the Twin Chimney House is built perpendicular to the street, although there is an entrance on the street facade. It is a 2-story frame structure on brick foundation with two tall exterior brick chimneys on the street gable. Between the chimneys on 1st story are 2 doors + a ~~screened~~ porch. On the outside of the 2 chimneys are windows on both stories. The main portion of the house is only 2 bays long; the wing being approximately the same length, and ~~also~~ ^{equally} as deep. ~~The~~ Both sections of the house are covered with ^{brown} wood shingle. Window trim is painted white and the sash have 9/16 lights on 1st story + 6/16 lights on second story. ^{Around} the house are several large maple trees and a large yard. It appears to date from about the 1820's, though closer examination is necessary.

MAB 3/2/71

Twin Chimney House, Quantico



↑
facade

2 story + 1 story



2 bays long & 4 deep

brick foundation

frame covered

w/ shingle

△ roof -

2 outside chimneys
on street side

9/0 + 9/6 sash

Summer 1970

MD3

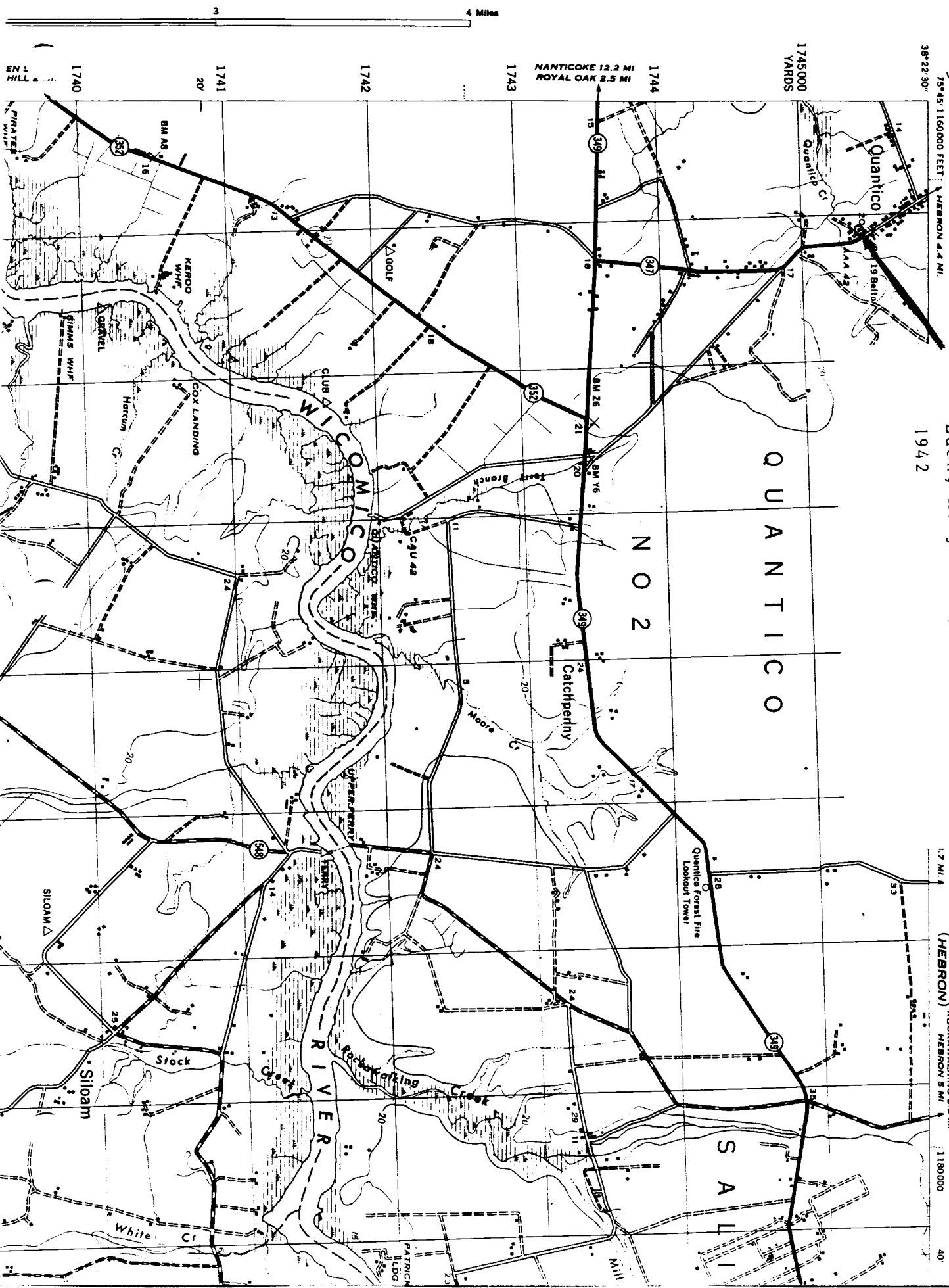
ARDELA SPRINGS

MARYLAND

SCALE 1:31680

WI-47
DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE
Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

WAR DEPARTMENT
CRPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY





WI-47

DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE

Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland

3/93, Paul Touart, photographer

South elevation

Negative/MD Historical Trust



WI-47

DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE

Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland

3/93, Paul Touart, photograher

Southwest elevation

Negative/MD Historical Trust



WI-47

DR. SAMUEL KER HOUSE

Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland

3/93, Paul Touart, photographer

Southeast elevation

Negative/MD Historical Trust



~~K&R House~~

73%

3x6

Turn Churney

~~K&R~~

House

PHOTO --
O. V. WOOTEN
313 BIRMINGHAM DRIVE
SALISBURY, MD.